

# Astronomy 101

Out of this World Fun!

## Vocabulary words:

Telescope	Astronomer	Planet	Moon
Solar System	Star	Constellation	Galaxy
Nebula	Light Year	Gravity	Universe

## Vocabulary words Defined:

**Telescope**- An optical instrument for making distant objects appear nearer and larger. It usually consisting of 2 or more lenses sometimes mirrors and a cylindrical housing.

**Astronomer**- One who studies star distribution, motion, relative position and relative sizes of celestial bodies and can include the relationship to Earth.

**Planet**- A celestial body that moves around its star in a nearly circular path.

**Moon**- A natural satellite that moves around a planet due to gravitation.

**Solar System**- The sun and all the known planets, satellites, comets, asteroids, and dust particles that revolve around it due to the gravity of the sun. The system is called solar system because of its dependence on the sun (solar).

**Star** – A hot, luminous gaseous object in space that has a defined shape. Stars are divided into 5 major types: supergiants, giants, dwarfs, white dwarfs and neutron stars.

**Constellations**- A group of star in a particular pattern that is recognizable.

**Galaxy** – A system of stars, cosmic dust, and gases held together by gravitation and is often many light years in diameter. We live in the Milky Way galaxy which is a spiral galaxy.

**Nebula-** A cloudlike cluster of stars or a hazy mass of dust particles and gases which occur in space. These objects can be dark or lit up by surrounding stars. The Orion nebula is a well known object that can be seen in the winter night sky.

**Light Year** – the distant light travels in a year’s time at a constant rate of 186,000 miles a second or approximately 9.5 trillion miles.

**Gravity-** The force of attraction that makes objects move or tend to move toward each other.

**Universe** – all matter and energy in time and space including all galaxies, gases, and all celestial bodies including comets, star clusters, nebulas and other deep space objects. The universe consists of millions of galaxies. The universe is everything.